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Identical letters dated 12 June 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On 16 June 2000, the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978), confirmed that Israeli forces had withdrawn from Lebanon in compliance with the line of withdrawal identified by the United Nations, the Blue Line. By resolution 1310 (2000), the Council adopted the report and further called on all parties to respect the line. By resolution 1701 (2006), the Council again reiterated its strong support for full respect of the Blue Line.

For 12 years, the Government of Lebanon has systematically violated its international obligations in regard to the Blue Line, which poses a serious threat to regional stability. I write to draw your attention to several grave violations of the line in recent months.

On 18 April 2012, several Lebanese Armed Forces soldiers crossed the Blue Line in the Har Dov area. They ignored requests by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to return to the Lebanese side of the line. The next day, Kassem Hashem, a member of the Lebanese Parliament, returned to the same area accompanied by two Lebanese Armed Forces soldiers. All three crossed the Blue Line, once again ignoring UNIFIL attempts to prevent them from entering the area.

This clear and deliberate provocation by a senior Lebanese leader should be taken with the utmost seriousness. It poses a threat to stability in our already turbulent region. An escalation to violence in this incident was only avoided because of Israel's restraint.

These are not isolated incidents. They represent a continuing pattern of violations. For your reference, I have listed below six other violations that have occurred in just the past four months:

9 February 2012. Lebanese Armed Forces soldiers crossed 40 metres south of the Blue Line in the area of TP35 (west of MISGAV AM and south of the Blue Line), while Israel was carrying out construction work on the Israeli side of the Blue Line.

25 February 2012. Lebanese Armed Forces soldiers crossed the Blue Line in the area of 85B, near Kfar Kila.

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11 April 2012. Lebanese citizens dug a tunnel that crossed the Blue Line, which merged into an Israeli well. After UNIFIL was informed of the incident, the Lebanese Armed Forces covered the well.

April 2012. During the month of April, several Lebanese tractors crossed onto the Israeli side of the Blue Line to plough land near the Hasbani River. The activity continues to have direct effects on the water resources of the two countries. This work was not coordinated with Israel — and it only stopped after UNIFIL intervention.

May 2012. During May, Israel constructed a fence near Kfar Kila. Even though this construction was coordinated between Israel, UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces, the Lebanese Armed Forces demanded that Israel halt this construction, despite the fact that it is taking place entirely on Israeli territory south of the Blue Line.

25 May 2012. With the support of the Lebanese Armed Forces, Lebanese citizens built infrastructure on the Israeli side of the Blue Line, which included sidewalks and trees. They held a ceremony to celebrate this construction, which was attended by senior Lebanese Armed Forces commanders.

The United Nations and the international community have a clear duty to hold the Government of Lebanon responsible for its serial violations of the Blue Line. It is high time that Lebanon respected the Blue Line in its entirety. Any further delay on this issue holds the potential to ignite an escalation of conflict in our region.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ron **Prosor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative